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ABSTRACT

Compared in this document are the post-high school activities of the 1972 and 1973 graduates from public and nonpublic high schools in Pennsylvania. Areas of comparison were (1) enrollment in a postsecondary degree-granting institution (PDGI) vs. other activities (enrollment decreased by 5,172 students from 1972 to 1973; the number finding work increased slightly; 750 fewer students entered the military); (2) public vs. nonpublic high school graduates (40% public vs. 54.5% private school graduates entered a PDGI, and 3.5% vs. 1.7% entered the armed forces); (3) public high school graduates by sex (an almost equal number graduated, but 2,180 fewer women entered a PDGI and left the state, more entered an associate degree-granting business school); (4) 1973 public high school graduates by race and sex (regardless of race, more males attended a PDGI; the majority of Oriental Americans went to college, whereas the percentage of Blacks was below that of all graduates); (5) post high school activities of public academic program graduates (of the 38% in academic programs, 50.1% were male; the majority of Oriental Americans were in academic programs; Black and Spanish Americans were underrepresented); (6) post high school activities of public vocational-technical program graduates (35% of 1972 graduates and 40.4% of 1973 graduates were vocational-technical students, but only 12.5% attended PDGIs); and (7) 1973 graduates and employment (31% employed with 13% of that total from nonpublic schools; more females had received vocational training; the proportion of Blacks and Spanish Americans who entered the labor force was about the same as for all graduates, though a much smaller proportion of these were from academic programs; and less than 8% of Oriental American public school graduates worked immediately.) Data tables are appended. (VB)

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This report details the post-high school activities of the graduates from public and nonpublic high schools. Information on the graduates from public academic and vocational-technical programs are included. Comparisons between the 1972 and 1973 graduates are made and conclusions and recommendations are offered.

Post-High School Activities of the 1973 Graduates by Race and Sex

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January 1975

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CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Based on the results presented in this report, the following conclusions and implications are offered:

1. On the assumption that the trend over the last two years (1972 and 1973) continues, enrollments in private junior colleges, state-owned institutions and degree-granting business or technical schools will start to decline after the 1974-1975 school year.

2. The Commonwealth universities and the independent colleges and universities will continue to increase their enrollments slightly, peaking in 1978-1979.

3. The decline, between 1972 and 1973, in the number of high school graduates enrolling in a college or university outside the state may indicate a changing attitude on the part of high school graduates in terms of the attractiveness of the state's baccalaureate degree-granting institutions.

4. The rise in the per cent of the public high school graduates with vocational-technical training, from 35 to 40 per cent between 1972 and 1973, indicates that the state's goal of having 50 per cent of the graduates prepared to directly enter the labor force may be realized in two to four years.

5. Unless the number and proportion of black and Spanish-American high school students in academic programs is increased significantly, the proportion of those students eventually entering colleges or universities will not materially increase.

6. Since the proportion of public high school graduates from the general and academic programs who entered a college or university remained stable between 1972 and 1973, indications are that the overall decrease in the total number of enrollments in degree-granting institutions relates directly to the corresponding increase in the number of graduates from vocational-technical programs.

DISCUSSION

Comparison Between the 1972 and 1973 Graduates

In the 1972-1973 school year, 181,621 students were graduated from high school, a decline of almost 5,000 from the previous year. As it can be seen in Table 1, about 42.2 per cent of all the 1973 graduates continued their education at a degree-granting postsecondary institution. By comparison, about 43.9 per cent did so in 1971-1972. Thus, the number of high school graduates seeking degrees between 1972 and 1973 at the postsecondary level decreased by 5,172.

A number of other interesting shifts can be seen between 1972 and 1973. In 1973, about 1,600 fewer graduates planned to enter a college or university outside Pennsylvania. Approximately the same number of graduates for each year planned to enter independent colleges or universities within the state, or in one of the state-related universities. However, for other postsecondary degree-granting institutions, particularly the state-owned colleges and community colleges, there was a decided decrease in the number of high school graduates planning to enroll. Similarly, the number and percentage of graduates who continued their education at other educational institutions dropped by one per cent from 1972 to 1973.

Considering that in 1971 about 45.3 per cent of all the graduates entered a postsecondary degree-granting institution, the decline to the 1973 level of 42.2 per cent may well portend a shift in the high school graduates' attitude toward postsecondary education.

Of all the 1972 graduates, 56,700 (30.4 per cent) found work. The number increased slightly in 1973 to 57,046 even though the total number of graduates was less in 1973. Also, 750 fewer graduates entered the military service in 1973.

Difference Between Public and Nonpublic High School Graduates

Most of the 1973 graduates (85 per cent) were from public high schools. Table 2 shows that the major portion (54.5 per cent) of the nonpublic high school graduates entered a postsecondary degree-granting institution. By contrast, only 40 per cent of the public high school graduates did so. This difference is probably due, in part, to two factors: (1) the majority of the nonpublic high schools stress academic pursuits and (2) the number and types of their vocational offerings are much more limited than those of the public high schools. Related to this, a larger proportion (28.8 per cent) of the nonpublic high school graduates enrolled in independent colleges and universities both within and outside the state. The comparable figure for public high school graduates was 14.3 per cent.

Of the public high school graduates, 5,428 (3.5 per cent) entered the armed forces. Only 1.7 per cent of the nonpublic high school graduates did so. A greater proportion of the public high school graduates sought employment. This is probably related to the fact that slightly over 40 per cent of the public high school graduates had received training in a vocational-technical program.

Thus, in general, although the major proportion of the graduates were from public high schools, proportionately fewer continue their education full time and a larger proportion entered the military or went to work.

1973 Public High School Graduates by Sex

Of the 154,045 public high school graduates, 76,099 (49.4 per cent) were women and 77,946 (50.6 per cent) were men. This minor difference is probably related to the fact that of every thousand babies born, 495 are female and 505 are male.

However, there are a number of differences in terms of their post-high school activities. In Table 3, it can be seen that 2,180 fewer women entered a postsecondary degree-granting institution. Of the college women, fewer left the state and a larger proportion entered the state-owned and state-related universities. A larger proportion also entered an associate degree-granting business or technical school. Thus, it appears that fewer female than male graduates entered a postsecondary degree-granting institution. And, of those that did, a larger proportion entered colleges and universities which have lower tuition rates and are teacher-education oriented.

On the other hand, a larger proportion (10.6 per cent) of the female graduates entered a nondegree-granting school than did male graduates. Of the 2,916 graduates who entered a school of nursing, almost all (97 per cent) were women. Similarly, the major portion of the graduates who entered nondegree-granting business schools were women. By contrast, a slightly larger number of male graduates continued their education at vocational-technical schools.

Table 3 shows that about one-third of the male public high school graduates found employment. Slightly fewer female graduates took jobs. In short, it appears that a larger number of female graduates than male graduates generally do not plan to enter the labor force.

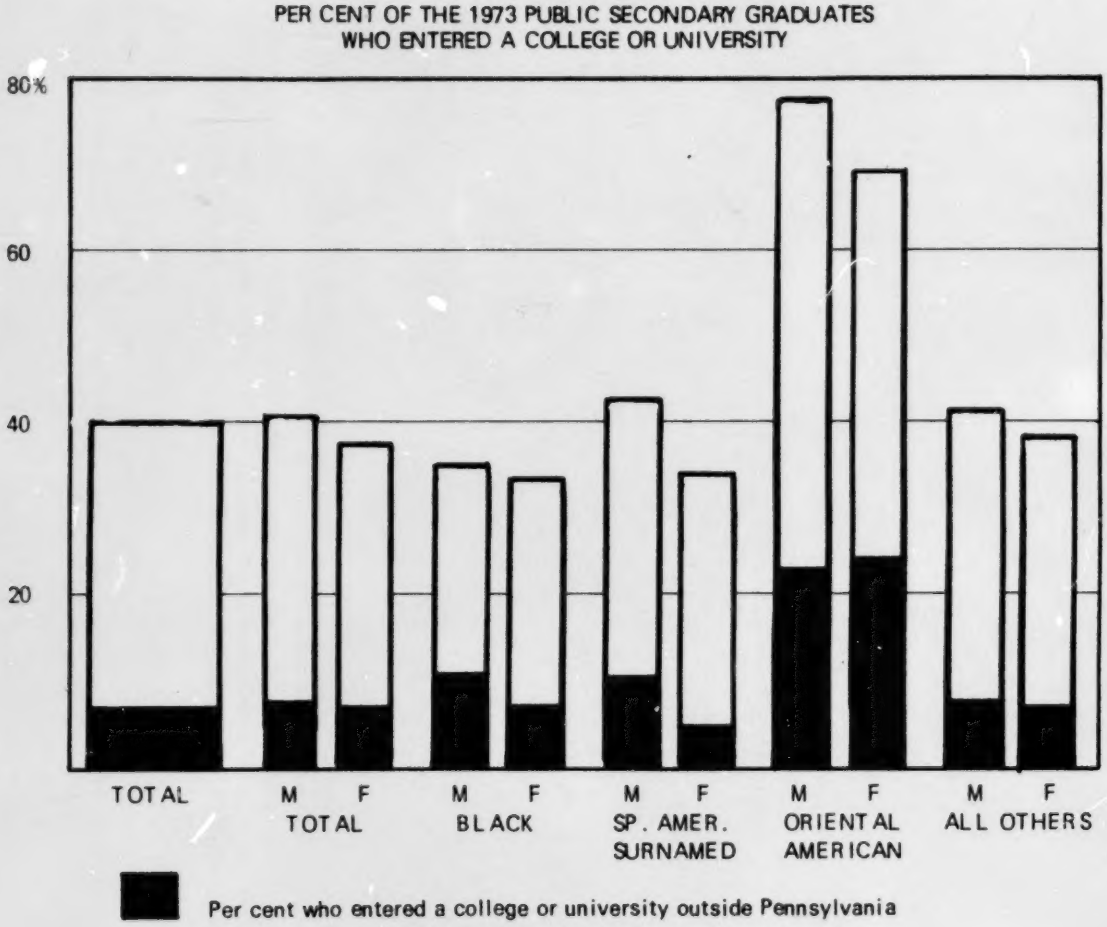
1973 Public High School Graduates by Race and Sex

From Table 4, it can be seen that the number of Oriental-American and Spanish-American graduates was small. For this reason, the post-high school activities for those graduates are discussed only in a limited sense.

Of all the graduates in 1973 from public high schools, 11,052 (7.2 per cent) were black. Since the 1970 census showed 8.6 per cent of the population is black, the disparity indicates that blacks--particularly black males--have a higher dropout rate than other high school students.

Figure 1 shows that, although 40 per cent of all the public secondary graduates entered a degree-granting institution, there are definite disparities when the information is inspected by race and sex. Regardless of race, male graduates were more apt than female graduates to continue their education at a postsecondary degree-granting institution. Except for Oriental-American male graduates, a slightly larger proportion of the male graduates entered a college or university outside of Pennsylvania

Figure 1


PER CENT OF THE 1973 PUBLIC SECONDARY GRADUATES
WHO ENTERED A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
80%
60
40
20
TOTAL
M F
TOTAL
M F
BLACK
M F
SP. AMER. SURNAMED
M F
ORIENTAL AMERICAN
M F
ALL OTHERS
Per cent who entered a college or university outside Pennsylvania

However, there were also some noticeable differences by race. The majority of the Oriental-American high school graduates went to college. The percentage of black high school graduates doing so, on the other hand, was below that for all graduates. Interestingly, even though the percentage of black high school graduates continuing their education was lower than the average, a larger proportion of them entered a college or university outside the state. This was also true for the Oriental-American high school graduates.

Post-High School Activities of the Public Academic Program Graduates

It is estimated (see notation on Table 5) that 58,672, or 38 per cent, of all the 1973 public high school graduates are from academic programs. Of that group, 50.1 per cent were male. Thus, the overall difference by sex was negligible. However, there were significant differences when the graduates were compared by race (see Figure 2). The majority of Oriental-American high school graduates were in academic programs.

By contrast, the proportion of black and Spanish-American high school graduates from academic programs was below average. The major proportion (69.6 per cent) of the academic program graduates continued their education at a postsecondary degree-granting institution. In view of the fact that a smaller proportion of those graduates were black or Spanish-American, it is understandable why a lesser percentage of all those graduates entered a college or university. Thus, should educators be interested in increasing the percentage of those graduates who wish to enter a college or university, they should direct their efforts toward increasing the proportion of black and Spanish-American high school students in academic programs.

It is worth noting that of the 1973 public academic program graduates, 7,367, or 12.6 per cent, sought employment. Considering that the academic program does not specifically train students for direct entry into the labor force, these graduates probably would have benefited from some type of vocational training. This is borne out to some extent by the fact that 4,812 of the academic program graduates felt it necessary to attend postsecondary nondegree-granting vocational schools.

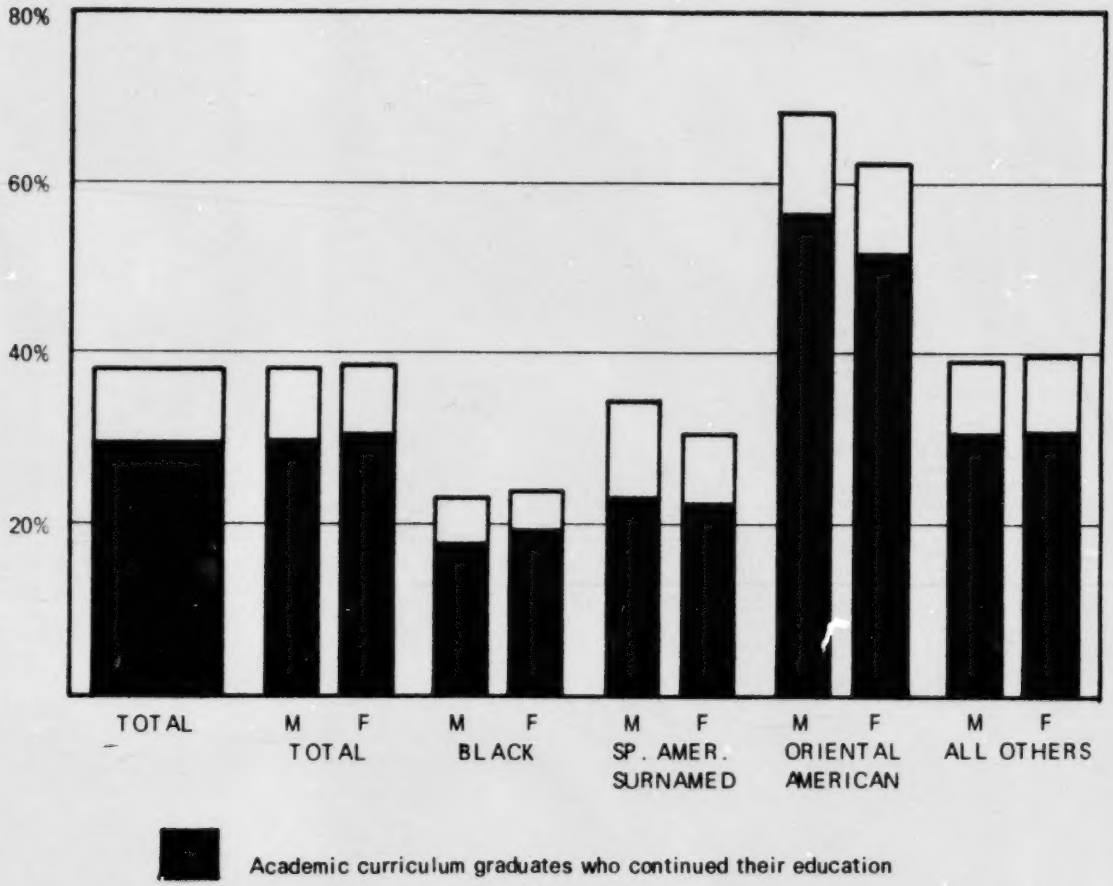
Post-High School Activities of the Public Vocational-Technical Program Graduates

In 1972, there were 55,011 graduates from public vocational-technical programs. This represented about 35 per cent of all the public high school graduates. However, in 1973 the number increased to 62,230, or 40.4 per cent of all the 1973 public high school graduates. This dramatic rise over the two years seems to indicate that the Bureau of Vocational, Technical and Continuing Education's projected goal to make vocational-technical education available to 50 per cent of the public high school students will soon be realized.

In a comparison of the post-high school activities of all the 1973 public high school graduates and those from vocational-technical programs, significant differences are apparent (see Tables 2 and 6). Although the vocational-technical graduates constituted 40.4 per cent of all the public high school graduates, only 7,765, or 12.5 per cent, went on to postsecondary degree-granting institutions. The comparable figure for all public high school graduates is 40 per cent.

Figure 2

PER CENT OF ALL THE 1973 PUBLIC SECONDARY GRADUATES
WHO WERE IN THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM



Subtracting the vocational-technical graduates from the total number of public high school graduates presents an interesting picture. In 1972, 102,404 high school graduates were not from vocational-technical programs. Of that number, 60,149 (58.7 per cent) continued their education at a degree-granting postsecondary institution. In 1973 there were 91,815 high school graduates not from vocational-technical programs. Of these, 53,809 (58.6 per cent) continued their education at a degree-granting institution. Although these are only two points in time, the findings indicate that the decrease in the percentage of public high school graduates continuing their education at degree-granting postsecondary institutions is related to the increase in the number of graduates from vocational-technical programs.

Comparison of the 1973 Graduates in Terms of Employment

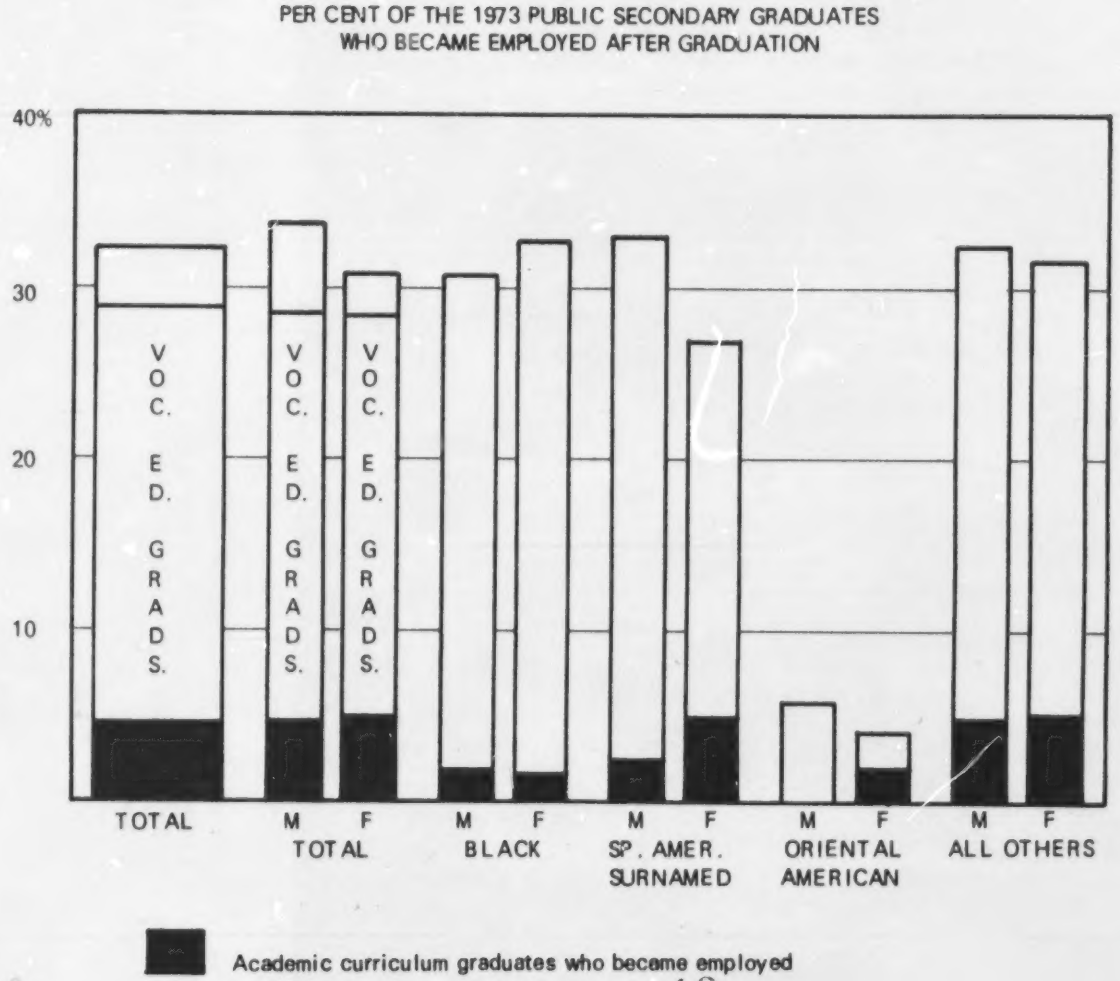
Table 2 shows that 57,046 graduates found employment. This represented 31 per cent of all graduates. Of that total, 7,283 (about 13 per cent) were from nonpublic high schools. Thus, the major proportion of the graduates (49,763) who found employment were from public high schools. Of the 49,763, about 38,865 had vocational training before entering the labor force. Figure 3 graphically presents this information.

The majority (78 per cent) of all the public high school graduates came from vocational programs. It becomes apparent that vocational education's goal to offer some vocational training to all the graduates who want to work directly after graduation is near at hand. However, some differences show up when the information is inspected for males and females. A larger proportion of the female high school graduates received some vocational training. This indicates that, if vocational education expands further, efforts should be directed toward recruiting more males.

From Figure 3, it can be seen that the proportion of black high school graduates who entered the labor force was about the same as for all graduates. However, a much smaller proportion of the black graduates entering the labor force were from academic programs. This is true also for the male Spanish-surnamed high school graduates. Less than eight per cent of the Oriental-American public school graduates went to work. As pointed out earlier, the majority of those graduates entered a college or university.

Unfortunately, no detailed information is available on the race of the vocational graduates. For this reason, it cannot be determined how many or what per cent of the graduates by race who entered the labor force had received some vocational preparation.

Figure 3


PER CENT OF THE 1973 PUBLIC SECONDARY GRADUATES
WHO BECAME EMPLOYED AFTER GRADUATION
40%
30
20
10
VOC. ED. GRADS.
TOTAL
M F
TOTAL
BLACK
SP. AMER. SURNAMED
ORIENTAL AMERICAN
ALL OTHERS
Academic curriculum graduates who became employed

TABLES

Table 1
Distribution of Twelfth Grade Graduates
By Post-High School Activity

	1972 Number	1972 %	1973 Number	1973 %
Total	*186,569*		*181,621*	
College or University (Outside of Pennsylvania)	16,100	8.6	14,497	8.0
Community College	11,499	6.2	10,323	5.7
Private Junior College	2,482	1.3	2,158	1.2
State-Owned Institution	17,609	9.4	15,964	8.8
Commonwealth University	14,047	7.5	14,834	8.2
Independent College or University	15,981	8.6	15,487	8.5
Business or Tech. School (Associate Degree)	4,188	2.2	3,471	1.9
Total	*81,906*	*43.9*	*76,734*	*42.2* 1/
Business School (Nondegree)	2,817	1.5	2,321	1.3
School of Nursing	4,403	2.4	3,606	2.0
Vocational-Technical School	5,166	2.8	4,891	2.7
Other School	3,524	1.9	2,899	1.6
Total	*15,910*	*8.5*	*13,717*	*7.6*
Armed Forces	6,648	3.6	5,898	3.2
Employment	56,700	30.4	57,046	31.4
All Others and Unknown	25,405 2/	13.6	28,226	15.5

1/ Will not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes unemployed, attending school or college part-time, homemakers, postgraduates and unknown.

Sources: *Our Schools Today: Public Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1972-73 and 1973-74,* and *Our Schools Today: Nonpublic Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1972-73 and 1973-74,* Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Information Systems, Division of Statistics, 1974.

Table 2
Distribution of Twelfth Grade Graduates
By Post-High School Activity
(1973 Graduates)

	Public		Nonpublic		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	*154,045*		*27,576*		*181,621*	
College or University (Outside of Pennsylvania)	11,190	7.3	3,307	12.0	14,497	8.0
Community College	8,524	5.5	1,799	6.5	10,323	5.7
Private Junior College	1,601	1.0	557	2.0	2,158	1.2
State-Owned Institution	13,973	9.1	1,991	7.2	15,964	8.8
Commonwealth University	12,468	8.1	2,366	8.6	14,834	8.2
Independent College or University	10,841	7.0	4,646	16.8	15,487	8.5
Business or Tech. School (Associate Degree)	2,977	1.9	494	1.8	3,471	1.9
Total	*61,574*	*40.0*	*15,160*	*55.0*	*76,734*	*42.2* 1/
Business School (Nondegree)	1,966	1.3	355	1.3	2,321	1.3
School of Nursing	2,916	1.9	690	2.5	3,606	2.0
Vocational-Technical School	4,204	2.7	687	2.5	4,891	2.7
Other School	2,651	1.7	248	0.9	2,899	1.6
Total	*11,737*	*7.6*	*1,980*	*7.2*	*13,717*	*7.6*
Armed Forces	5,428	3.5	470	1.7	5,898	3.2
Employment	49,763	32.2	7,283	26.4	57,046	31.4
All Others and Unknown	25,543 2/	16.6	2,683	9.7	28,226	15.5

1/ Will not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes unemployed, attending school or college part-time, homemakers, postgraduates and unknown.

Sources: *Our Schools Today: Public Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1973-74,* and *Our Schools Today: Nonpublic Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1973-74,* Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Information Systems, Division of Statistics, 1974.

Table 3
Distribution of Public Twelfth Grade Graduates
By Post-High School Activity and Sex
(1973 Graduates)

	Female		Male	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	*76,099*		*77,946*	
College or University (Outside of Pennsylvania)	5,169	6.8	6,021	7.7
Community College	3,973	5.2	4,551	5.8
Private Junior College	982	1.3	619	0.8
State-Owned Institution	7,700	10.1	6,273	8.0
Commonwealth University	4,970	6.5	7,498	9.6
Independent College or University	4,717	6.2	6,124	7.9
Business or Tech. School (Associate Degree)	1,686	2.2	1,291	1.7
Total	*29,197*	*38.4* 1/	*32,377*	*41.5*
Business School (Nondegree)	1,661	2.2	305	0.4
School of Nursing	2,842	3.7	74	0.1
Vocational-Technical School	1,850	2.4	2,354	3.0
Other School	1,680	2.2	971	1.2
Total	*8,033*	*10.6*	*3,704*	*4.8*
Armed Forces	654	0.9	4,774	6.1
Employment	23,543	30.9	26,220	33.6
All Others and Unknown	14,672 2/	19.3	10,871	13.9

1/ Will not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes unemployed, attending school or college part-time, homemakers, postgraduates and unknown.

Sources: *Our Schools Today: Public Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1973-74,* and *Our Schools Today: Nonpublic Elementary-Secondary School Report, 1973-74,* Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Information Systems, Division of Statistics, 1974.

Table 4
Post-High School Activities of the
Public Twelfth Grade Graduates by Race and Sex
(1973 Graduates)

	Total		Coll.,Univ.		School		Armed Forces		Employed		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Black	11,052	7.2	3,835	2.5	737	0.5	335	0.2	2,627	1.7	3,518	2.3
Male	5,128	3.3	1,822	1.2	266	0.2	292	0.2	1,175	0.8	1,573	1.0
Female	5,924	3.9	2,013	1.3	471	0.3	43	---	1,452	0.9	1,945	1.3
Oriental	143	0.1	106	0.1	6	---	4	---	9	---	18	---
Male	69	---	54	---	---	---	2	---	4	---	9	---
Female	74	---	52	---	6	---	2	---	5	---	9	---
Span.-Amer. Surnamed	507	0.3	196	0.1	18	---	5	---	151	0.1	137	0.1
Male	250	---	107	---	6	---	5	---	82	---	50	---
Female	257	---	89	---	12	---	---	---	69	---	87	---
All Other	142,343	92.4	57,437	37.3	10,976	7.1	5,084	3.3	46,976	30.5	21,870	14.2
Male	72,499	47.1	30,394	19.7	3,432	2.2	4,475	2.9	24,959	16.2	9,239	6.0
Female	69,844	45.3	27,043	17.6	7,544	4.9	609	0.4	22,017	14.3	12,631	8.2
Total	154,045	100.0	61,574	40.0	11,737	7.6	5,428	3.5	49,763	32.2	25,543	16.6
Male	77,946	50.6	32,377	21.0	3,704	2.4	4,774	3.1	26,220	17.0	10,871	7.1
Female	76,099	49.4	29,197	19.0	8,033	5.2	654	0.4	23,543	15.3	14,672	9.5

Source: Special unpublished tabulation developed by the Division of Statistics for the Office of Equal Rights.

Table 5
Post-High School Activities of the
Public Academic Program Graduates by Race and Sex
(1973 Graduates)

	Total		Coll., Univ.		School		Armed Forces		Employed		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Black	2,582	4.4	1,849	3.2	155	0.3	54	0.1	276	0.5	248	0.4
Male	1,173	2.0	850	1.5	44	0.1	44	0.1	134	0.2	101	0.1
Female	1,409	2.4	999	1.7	111	0.2	10	---	142	0.3	147	0.3
Oriental	93	0.2	73	---	4	---	1	---	2	---	13	---
Male	47	0.1	39	---	---	---	1	---	---	---	7	---
Female	46	0.1	34	---	4	---	---	---	2	---	6	---
Span.-Amer. Surnamed	163	0.3	106	0.2	8	---	1	---	24	---	24	---
Male	86	0.1	56	---	1	---	1	---	11	---	17	---
Female	77	0.1	50	---	7	---	---	---	13	---	7	---
All Other	55,834	95.2	38,809	66.1	4,645	8.0	1,117	1.9	7,065	12.0	4,198	7.2
Male	28,103	47.9	20,631	35.2	1,119	2.0	951	1.6	3,547	6.0	1,855	3.2
Female	27,731	47.3	18,178	30.9	3,526	6.0	166	0.3	3,518	6.0	2,343	4.0
Total	58,672	100.0	40,837	69.6	4,812	8.2	1,173	2.0	7,367	12.6	4,483	7.6
Male	29,409	50.1	21,576	36.8	1,164	2.0	997	1.7	3,692	6.3	1,980	3.3
Female	29,263	49.9	19,261	32.8	3,648	6.2	176	0.3	3,675	6.3	2,503	4.3

Source: Special unpublished tabulation developed by the Division of Statistics for the Office of Equal Rights.

NOTE: In reporting the information, many school districts commented that in view of their open curriculum practices, it was difficult to classify graduates in terms of academic curricula.

Table 6
Estimated Post-High School Activities of the 1973
Public Vocational-Technical Program Graduates

	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	*22,190*		*40,040*		*62,230*	
Community College	800	3.6	1,600	4.0	2,400	3.9
Private 2-yr. College	110	0.5	600	1.5	710	1.1
State-Owned Institution	975	4.4	1,360	3.4	2,335	3.8
Private 4-yr. College	375	1.7	800	2.0	1,175	1.9
Private Business School (Associate Degree)	65	0.3	1,080	2.7	1,145	1.8
Total	*2,325*	*10.5*	*5,440*	*13.6*	*7,765*	*12.5*
Private Technical School	400	1.8	200	0.5	600	1.0
AVTS	220	1.0	440	1.1	660	1.1
Other Schools	175	0.8	760	1.9	935	1.5 1/
Total Schools	*795*	*3.6*	*1,400*	*3.5*	*2,195*	*3.5*
Armed Forces	2,265	10.2	480	1.2	2,745	4.4
Employment Full-Time	13,715	61.8	22,140	55.3	35,855	57.6
Employment Part-Time	730	3.3	2,280	5.7	3,010	4.8
All Others and Unknown	2,360 2/	10.6	8,300	20.7	10,660	17.1

1/ Will not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes unemployed, attending school or college part-time, homemakers, postgraduates and unknown.

NOTE: The total number of vocational-technical program graduates reported here is slightly underestimated. Some schools failed to list the year-end status for a number of their students.